

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 10. canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the method comprising:

generating varying key bits; and

encoding the varying key bits in the digital signal as a watermark with reference to at least characteristics of the digital signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of steganographically encoding bits in a digital signal, the method comprising:

generating varying key bits; and

steganographically encoding the digital signal using the varying key bits.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the method comprising:

mapping key information to effect an encode/decode map; and

encoding the watermark in the digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

14 – 15. canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a noise signal to produce watermark information, the method comprising:

generating a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

providing the generated noise signal as watermark information.

17 – 62. canceled.

63. (Currently Amended) A system for encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the system comprising:

a generator configured to generate ~~for generating~~ a pseudo-random key; and

an encoder configured to encode ~~for encoding~~ a watermark in the digital signal using: i) the pseudo-random key; and ii) characteristics of the digital signal.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the generator is selected from a non-linear generator or a scrambling generator.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the characteristics of the digital signal comprise mathematically defined functions of the digital signal.

66. (Currently Amended) A system for encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the system comprising:

a processor configured to: [[i) to]] map pseudo-random key and processing state information to effect an encode/decode map; and [[ii) to]] encode a watermark in [[a]] the digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the processor maps the pseudo-random key and processing state information to effect an encode/decode map using ~~generator is selected from~~ a non-linear generator or a scrambling generator.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the characteristics of the digital signal comprise mathematically defined functions of the digital signal.

69 – 133. canceled.

134. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

135. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

136. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

137. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63, wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

138. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

139.(New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate varying key bits; and

instructions to encode the varying key bits in a digital signal as a watermark with reference to at least characteristics of the digital signal.

140. (New) A system comprising:

a generator configured to generate varying key bits; and

an encoder configured to steganographically encode a digital signal using the varying key bits.

141. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate varying key bits; and

instructions to steganographically encode a digital signal using the varying key bits.

142. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to map key information to effect an encode/decode map; and

instructions to encode a watermark in a digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

143. (New) A system comprising:

a generator configured to generate a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

a provider configured to provide the generated noise signal as watermark information.

144. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

instructions to provide the generated noise signal as watermark information.